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May 1, 1996

Dear Ceramic Fiber Customer:

We are committed to keeping you informed of any changes associated with the use or handling of refractory ceramic fiber (RCF).

In 1987, our Company along with other RCF manufacturers began a long-term health study with the University of Cincinnati. The objective of the study was to determine whether occupational exposure to refractory ceramic fibers may cause health problems for employees. We want to inform you that there have been some recorded changes in humans associated with long term exposure. The pulmonary function tests demonstrated an overall decline in lung measurements among current smokers also having RCF exposure. However, in nonsmokers there was minimal change in lung measurements with increasing exposure to RCF.

An evaluation of the chest x-rays from 652 current and former employees has been completed. In the general population the investigators would expect less than 1% of individuals to have pleural plaques on routine chest x-ray. From the 652 current and former employees evaluated 3.1% or 20 employees had pleural plaques. The investigators looked at 72 workers who had at least 20 years employment working with RCF. From this group 9 employees or 12.5% had pleural plaques.

In summary, the investigators believe that workers involved in RCF manufacturing are at increased risk for developing pleural plaques (shadows along the inside of the chest wall). These pleural plaques, however are not known to cause symptoms or disability. Pleural plaques also do not represent any known risk for causing future abnormalities such as cancer.

We are sending you our most recent changes that have been made on our Material Safety Data Sheets, our warning labels and general health related information on ceramic fiber.

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A.P. Green Industries believes that our refractory ceramic fiber can be used safely when our recommended safety procedures are followed. We feel this approach is a conservative, common sense approach. We urge you to review this information and share it with your employees.

If you have further questions, please call 1-573-473-3626 and ask to speak with R.D. McCumber.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul F. Hummer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "H".

Paul F. Hummer
Chairman, President & CEO